

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5 **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method for shortening the stopping distance of a vehicle (2), in which a braking operation is prepared when a predefined event occurs, characterized in that the braking operation is prepared if a driving  
10 situation which is implausible to a driving assistance system occurs.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a pilot braking pressure is generated in order to prepare the braking operation.  
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3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a speed-dependent pilot braking pressure is generated.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the~~  
20 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the braking operation is prepared if the driver is requested by a driving assistance system to assume the control of the vehicle and/or to brake.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the~~  
25 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the braking operation is prepared if a driving assistance system is deactivated.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the~~  
30 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that objects are sensed at least in the area in front of the vehicle.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the~~  
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the distance and/or the relative  
speed and/or the relative acceleration with respect to an object in the area in  
front of the vehicle are determined and if the value drops below or exceeds a  
5 reference distance, a reference relative speed or a reference acceleration the  
braking operation is prepared.

8. (Currently Amended) A computing unit which is configured in terms  
of programming technology to carry out the method as claimed in ~~one of the~~  
10 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1.